

AIRPORT BEACON

A publication of  Muskegon County Airport

Airport Advisory Committee Taking Off

Submitted by Marty Piette

On July 14, 2009, the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners appointed the remaining eight members to the Airport Advisory Committee. Already appointed were County Commissioners Bill Gill, Bob Scolnik, and Lew Collins. Newly appointed members are Paul Billings, Ronald Gossett, William Moulatsiotis, Richard Dolack, John Workman, Rex Vanderlinde, Cindy Larsen, and Michele Yasenak.



The abundance of knowledge and experience of these eleven members will almost certainly prove valuable as we work together to promote, sustain, and improve the services that the Muskegon County Airport has provided for the past 80 years. Thank you for donating your valuable time to such an important community asset.

Welcome Aboard!

Transportation Committee

Bill Gill, Chair
Robert Scolnik, Vice Chair
Charles L. Buzzell
Lew Collins
James J. Derezinski
Marvin R. Engle
Kenneth Mahoney
Louis A. McMurray
Charles Nash
I. John Snider II
Roger Wade

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

Submit to:

Muskegon County Airport
99 Sinclair Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441
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From the Airport Manager

Submitted by Marty Piette

As you may have already heard, Delta/Mesaba Airlines has taken the first step towards federally subsidized service at MKG. Because of reduced passenger demand, Mesaba indicated in a July letter to the U.S.D.O.T that revenue had fallen and the cost of maintaining MKG-DTW service was not being covered. Mesaba also indicated that without a federal subsidy under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program, they could not continue to serve Muskegon.



The EAS program was created when the airline industry was deregulated in 1978. The purpose of the program is to maintain the vital link to the air transportation network in smaller communities. Approximately 140 cities have air service because of the EAS program. Several criteria exist for an airport to be eligible for EAS funds, and MKG meets all of those criteria. For more information on the EAS program, please visit http://ostpxweb.dot.gov/aviation/X-50%20Role_files/essentialairservice.htm.

Muskegon is one of eight cities where Mesaba is seeking an EAS subsidy.

The next step in this process includes the U.S.D.O.T. issuing an RFP, asking for proposals from airlines to continue commercial service in MKG. Delta/Mesaba intends to bid and continue serving MKG with DTW service. Other carriers are eligible to bid as well. As the incumbent carrier, chances are that Delta/Mesaba will win the RFP. The transition into EAS service is expected to be seamless with no disruption in service.

The bottom line is that Delta/Mesaba is committed to serving MKG. They could have pulled service altogether, but in recognition of past performance and the expectation that the recession will end and people will start flying again, they fully intend to maintain a presence.

Brownstone Catering

Submitted by Dianne Hoofman

"Meet in the Middle" The Brownstone Banquet Rooms may be just the ticket for a central location for your next meeting. The Lake Michigan room seats up to 40 people and the Mona Lake Room seats about 6. If pure enjoyment (not a private business setting) is your goal, the Terrace on The Airport Concourse holds 25. Or use the whole terminal and throw a bash!

For further information, contact the Brownstone Restaurant @ 798-2273, or Dianne Hoofman @ 798-4596, ext. 262.

The NW/DL Merger

Submitted by Dianne Hoofman

You will not find a Northwest sign in the Muskegon County Airport terminal but you will see Northwest planes landing at the airport. So what does all this mean? It means that Northwest is transitioning over to the Delta name... slowly. During the next month, you will continue to see the transition. Your mileage numbers should already be combined. Your Northwest credit card should be changed as well. The competition between US Bank FlexPerks (the old US Bank Northwest Visa) and the AX Delta SkyMiles cards brings with it plenty of deals. Fares are pretty consistent on both websites, www.nwa.com and www.delta.com. Northwest World Vacations already directs you to Delta Vacations. And the best part of all, flying from MKG has gotten easier because the merger has opened up new markets for us like Johannesburg, Sydney, Saigon and beyond.



Ask your travel agent to check MKG first. If you would rather book online and have questions or need assistance, contact Dianne Hoofman at hoofmand@verizon.net.

If you are finding fares higher in MKG than other airports, be sure to contact Dianne before booking. Many times she can have the fares adjusted, and you can continue supporting your local airport while saving time and money.



AIRPORT BEACON

Third Quarter

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2009

MKG Awarded 2nd Consecutive Balchen-Post Award

Submitted by Marty Piette

For the second consecutive year, the “snow crew” at the Muskegon County Airport has been awarded the Balchen/Post Award for Excellence in the Performance of Snow and Ice Control. The award is sponsored by the Northeast Chapter – American Association of Airport Executives.

The hours of planning and training needed to execute a comprehensive Snow and Ice Control Plan can easily go unnoticed. But when an aircraft needs to land or take off at Muskegon County Airport, rest assured the Airport snow crew is on the job, providing the safest environment possible for aircraft operations.

“The employees at the Airport obviously take their jobs seriously,” commented Bill Gill, Muskegon County Transportation Committee Chairman. “And now their extraordinary efforts to provide an accessible, efficient transportation portal are being recognized on an international level.”



The Airport received 148” of snow for the 2008/2009 winter season. Despite the challenges of battling fatigue, equipment malfunctions, and some of the worst winter weather the region has seen in decades, the Airport was never closed to operations due to poor surface conditions.

Pictured from left to right: Marty Piette, Mike Austgen, Russ Larson, Craig Kruzel, Dave Haack, John Bowler, Trina Walker, Mike Kotecki

Not Pictured: Gary Nielsen, Josie Rose, Kathy Sluyter



MKG Awarded \$800,000 in Federal Stimulus Funds

Submitted by Marty Piette

MKG was recently awarded \$800,000 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 to purchase a new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) vehicle. The new ARFF vehicle will replace a 1993 Oshkosh fire truck, catapulting MKG into the 21st century with the latest fire fighting technologies. The new ARFF vehicle will provide the necessary fire fighting capabilities as required by the Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139 for an Index A airport.

Rosenbauer Firefighting Technology was awarded the bid to provide the new ARFF vehicle. The vehicle is a rapid intervention Panther 4x4, holding 1500 gallons of water, 205 gallons of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) and 500 pounds of Purple K. The AFFF is used to fight fuel fires, while the Purple K is used to fight electrical fires.

As a large and complex vehicle, it takes time to build the Panther 4x4; expected delivery is March 31, 2010. For more information on Rosenbauer Firefighting Technology, visit their website at <http://www.rosenbaueramerica.com/indexa.php>.



Employee Spotlight



It does not take long to make a good impression. Our Employee Spotlight goes to Dave Haack of the Airport Maintenance department. In less than a year, Dave has managed to impress both co-workers and tenants. And the feeling is mutual. Dave’s favorite part of the job is the people. “The Airport Family is what makes the difference. We work together as a team. It’s old school and I like that. I see it and feel it everyday.”

“When you shake someone’s hand, you give them 100% of your attention.” Dave is that kind of guy. He sees the good in people and knows enough to look below the exterior.

The job is not without sacrifice. He went his first 62 days without a day off. That was the winter of 2008 when the Muskegon Airport once again won the Balchen/Post Award for excellence in snow and ice removal. “I was like a fireman in winter. I showered at night so I would be ready for the call, no matter how early in the morning.”

Dave’s favorite interest in life, besides his wife Deb, is his love for motorcycles. He has a Harley and a Yamaha and rides one of them to work everyday, rain or shine. The snow does not even stop him. He rides year round. He also spends his free time deer hunting and loves to travel the U.S. “Why go out of the country when there is so much to see here?”

We welcome Dave to our outstanding team at the Muskegon County Airport.

Express Transportation

Express Transportation is a small private company providing transportation for the Michigan Works agencies, Mesaba Airlines, Lake Express and the Muskegon County Airport. They feature a Toyota Sienna, Honda Odyssey and 2-15 passenger Chevy Express Vans. They have friendly and courteous drivers and offer fair prices.



Airport Contact Info

Airport Administration
231-798-4596, x-220
Airport Maintenance
231-798-4596, x-227

Northwest / Delta Air Lines
800-225-2525 / 800-221-1212
Air Travel Marketing Consultant
231-798-4596, x-262

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Pre-Pay Baggage Fees

Submitted by Dianne Hoofman

Pre-pay baggage fees during nwa.com check-in or at a self-service kiosk by selecting the number of bags you will be checking and providing a credit card. Your credit card will be charged at the airport baggage drop when your baggage tags are printed. If necessary, you can change the number of checked bags at an airport kiosk before your baggage tags are printed.

Effective for tickets purchased on or after July 16, 2009, for travel on or after August 4, 2009, customers traveling domestically who pre-pay baggage fees on nwa.com or delta.com will be charged \$15 for the first checked bag and \$25 for the second checked bag. Customers traveling domestically who check in and pay bag fees at an airport kiosk or with an agent will incur a \$5 surcharge for the first and second checked bags.

Special Note: For Silver Medallion/Silver Elite and higher status, checked baggage fees are waived for EVERYONE in your itinerary. Passengers can not be just traveling together, they must be in the SAME itinerary.

Congratulations



Executive Air Transport is celebrating its 50th year of service this year!

Executive Air has developed a very comprehensive and well respected aircraft maintenance facility, sales, leasing and aircraft management divisions and a partnership program with Baker College for flight training. They are also one of the oldest operators in Michigan. Their air charter fleet provides on-demand air charter service for priority freight and business travelers, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Employee of the Month

May 09 Russ Larson, Airport
June 09 Mike Kotecki, Airport